

Well Planned Community  
Safest City in the Area  
Strong Local Economy  
Responsible City Government  
Mobility for People  
Livable Neighborhoods

# City of Sugar Land

SPRING 2004



## Volunteers Needed for Boards and Commissions



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Five Candidates

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Serve Sugar Land

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Added for 2004

For voting/election questions,  
call (281) 275-2730.

## Council Election Called

A City Council election will be held May 15. Candidates for at-large position one, a two-year term, include Thomas Abraham, Michael E. Casey and Naomi Lam. Mayor David G. Wallace and Councilmember Daniel O. Wong, at-large position two, are unopposed.

In order to serve on Council, individuals must be 21 years of age and a resident of Sugar Land for at least one year preceding the election. Council members may not hold other City offices, and the City may not employ them during their terms of office or two years thereafter.

When voters go to the polls May 15, they will also be asked to consider amendments to the City Charter (see

article on Page 7). The 2003 Charter Review Commission, a seven-member citizen group appointed by City Council, considered various revisions to the City's charter, solicited public input and in November 2003 recommended several amendments, which will appear on the ballot as follows:

### PROPOSITION NO. 1

Shall Article 1 (General Powers) of the City Charter be amended to allow the City to annex an area for the limited purposes of regulating the use of land, the construction of buildings and to ensure the protection of the health and safety of persons in the area?

### PROPOSITION NO. 2

Shall section 2.09 of the City Charter be amended to allow the City Council to adopt, by ordinance, amendments to the City Charter, without an election, to correct errors in spelling, grammar, cross-references and punctuation and to revise language to reflect modern usage and style if the amendments do not change the meaning of the Charter?

The proposed City Charter changes address limited annexations; a process for updating for modern language usage, grammar and style; mayoral duties; and City Council quorums.

Continued on page 3





## *D e a r   R e s i d e n t s :*

This issue of Sugar Land's community newsletter provides an overview of the upcoming City election on May 15. I hope you find it useful, as it is our intent to present factual information to help make informed choices on Election Day. The City cannot take a position on an issue or a candidate; election law is very specific on this point. Governmental organizations are prohibited from using tax dollars to endorse or oppose a public vote.

I encourage all citizens to exercise your democratic right to vote. We have been fortunate in Sugar Land with healthy voter turnout, comparatively speaking, but I know we can improve. It is important that we hear from you. The election process provides a unique opportunity to

express your opinions, which in turn, delivers clear direction to City officials on daily operations.

You'll notice quite a few items on this year's ballot. In addition to uncontested races for mayor and at-large position 2, three candidates are running for at-large position 1, a seat vacated by Council Member Jimmy Thompson, who is unable to run due to term limits. Jimmy has provided valuable leadership since his election to City Council in 1996. His expertise in many areas, including eight years as City Council liaison to the Sugar Land Regional Airport, will be missed.

Also on this year's ballot are several items related to our City Charter, a document that forms the basis for our government. An overview of the proposed revisions is included on the cover and continues on page 3. Please take a moment to review these changes and tell us what you think on Election Day. The changes are the product of an exhaustive review by a group of citizens appointed to the Charter Review Committee.

We have many opportunities throughout the year for citizens to participate in City government. In addition to various committees, we have numerous boards and commissions covering all facets of City operations. An application is included in this publication for anyone interested in serving Sugar Land.

In order to make the transition to volunteer service as smooth as possible, we've recently launched a new pilot program called Sugar Land 101. The mission of this program is to familiarize citizens with the structure, function and purpose of Sugar Land government and to equip and encourage them to assume a leadership role within the community. I look forward to evaluating feedback as we work to develop this exciting learning project.

An informed, educated and involved citizenry is our most valuable commodity. I hope to see you at the polls May 15.

Sincerely,

Allen Bogard  
City Manager

### **CITY COUNCIL**

David G. Wallace  
Mayor

James A. Thompson  
Mayor Pro-Tem, At-Large Position One

Daniel O. Wong  
At-Large Position Two

Dennis C. Parmer  
Single Member District One

Cyril Hosley  
Single Member District Two

Russell C. Jones  
Single Member District Three

Michael S. Schiff  
Single Member District Four

### **CITY MANAGEMENT**

Allen Bogard  
City Manager

David Ellison  
Assistant City Manager

Paul A. Hofmann  
Assistant City Manager

### **COMMUNITY ACTION CENTER**

A resource for citizens who do not know where or whom to call, Community Action Center provides high quality customer service for Sugar Land residents and visitors. Inquiries, complaints, compliments and requests may be directed to 281/ASK-CITY (275-2489).

### PROPOSITION NO. 3

Shall section 2.05 (a) of the City Charter be amended to provide that the mayor will perform any additional duties as specified by federal or state laws or regulations?

### PROPOSITION NO. 4

Shall section 2.07 of the City Charter be amended to allow less

than a quorum of four council members to act temporarily as a quorum where the death or disability of members reduces the number of council members able to serve to less than a quorum?

The charter is a document that provides the foundation for governance in Sugar Land. In 1981, Sugar Land citizens voted to adopt

the City's first home-rule charter. By converting from a general-law city to a home-rule city, citizens chose to exercise their rights under the Texas Constitution to make local laws to govern the affairs of the City. The charter is the City's 'constitution' and cannot be amended except by approval of the voters and by state law not more often than every two years.

## Early voting in person begins Wednesday, April 28 and continues through Tuesday, May 11 at the following locations:

#### LOCATION

#### DAYS AND TIME

##### **GARCIA MIDDLE SCHOOL**

18550 Old Richmond Road

##### **MISSOURI CITY CITY HALL**

1522 Texas Parkway

##### **FIRST COLONY CONFERENCE CENTER**

3232 Austin Parkway

Wednesday, April 28, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Thursday, April 29, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Friday, April 30, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Monday, May 3, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Tuesday, May 4, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Wednesday, May 5, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Thursday, May 6, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Friday, May 7, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Saturday, May 8, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Sunday, May 9, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
Monday, May 10, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, May 11, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

#### LOCATION

#### DAYS AND TIME

##### **FORT BEND ISD ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

16431 Lexington Boulevard

##### **WILLOWRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL**

16301 Chimney Rock

##### **SUGAR LAND CITY HALL**

10405 Corporate Drive

##### **MEADOWS PLACE CITY HALL**

One Trojan Drive

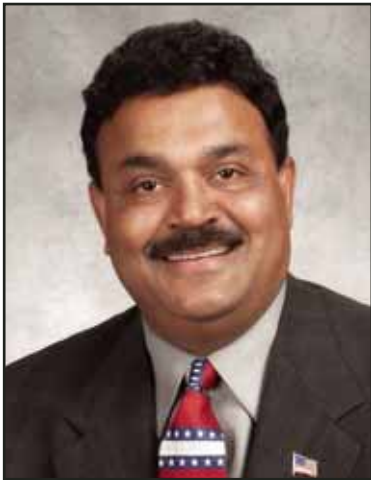
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Wednesday, May 5, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Thursday, May 6, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Friday, May 7, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Monday, May 10, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Tuesday, May 11, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.





# MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR AT-LARGE POSITION 1

Bios provided by candidates.



**Tom Abraham** is currently serving on the Mayor's Advisory Council to Improve Police/Community Relations; serving as vice chairman of the Parks and Recreation Policy Advisory Board; Mayor's Leadership Council member and Youth Leadership Council member; and Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Task Force. He has served as president of the Sugar Lakes Homeowners Association and president of Hunter Wood Municipal Utility District.

He has worked as a training consultant for Exxon, on the faculty at Lee College, Baytown, Houston Community College, Stafford and San Jacinto College. He has served as a member of the City of Houston Code Enforcement for five years and on the Sugar Land Building Code & Adjustment and Appeals Board for seven years. Tom has been an independent business owner of an air conditioning, refrigeration, heating wholesale distributor enterprise for 22 years. He is owner and developer of various commercial real estate developments. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering and a Master of Science degree in business. He has lived in Sugar Land since 1989 and is married with two children.



**Michael E. Casey**, president of Forest Financial Services in Sugar Land and a city resident since 1988, has announced his candidacy for City Council. He is running for the At-Large, position 1 seat in the May 15 election.

As a Councilmember, Casey, 57, would focus on public safety and fiscal responsibility. He believes the City should have a police department that is second to none and wants to make sure Sugar Land taxpayers get the most for their money. Casey emphasizes listening: He makes decisions after carefully considering all points of view.

Casey would bring 30 years' experience in banking, finance and community leadership to the Council. He is president of the Fort Bend Association for Retarded Citizens, treasurer of Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District 116 and a life member of the Fort Bend County Fair. Casey has also been treasurer of the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce, and as president of First Colony MUD 8, he helped reduce taxes by 26 percent.

Casey served in the Army as an officer after graduating from Texas A&M University. He and his wife, Linda, have four sons and are active members of St. Laurence Catholic Church.



**Naomi Lam** is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of Fort Bend ISD. She and her husband, a chiropractor, have lived in Sugar Land since 1985. They have two sons and two grandchildren. Naomi holds a Master's Degree in Accounting, is a former certified public accountant, a commercial real estate syndicator, investor and the business manager for Lam Chiropractic Clinic. Naomi Lam believes in keeping taxes low, government small, against FBISD bond referendum in the year of 2003 and saved the taxpayer 100 million dollars.

Naomi Lam served in Fort Bend County 2001 Redistricting Committee; City of Sugar Land 2002 Redistricting Committee; Fort Bend Citizen's Mobility Bond Election Committee; Fort Bend Senior Citizens, Inc. 2003 Advisory Board; and Fort Bend County Grand Jury. She was a volunteer in the United Way's Child and Family Crisis and Intervention Program. She is a member of Sugar Land Optimist Club and Fort Bend Community Church.

## Boards/Commission/Committees/Volunteers

# INFORMATION STATEMENT AND APPLICATION

Sugar Land would not be what it is today if not for the dedicated service of citizen volunteers. A progressive community spirit and dedicated volunteers are what sets Sugar Land apart from other cities. If you are interested in serving on a board or commission or in one of the City's many volunteer opportunities, please complete this form and return to the City of Sugar Land, City Secretary, P.O. Box 110, Sugar Land, Texas 77487-0110 or fax to 281-275-2316. The Boards and Commission application can be accessed and completed on the City's Web site at [www.sugarlandtx.gov](http://www.sugarlandtx.gov). Just click "E-Gov," then "Boards and Commissions Application."

### PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Subdivision: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If retired, please indicate former occupation or profession.)

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Professional and/or Community Activities: \_\_\_\_\_

Resident of City for \_\_\_\_\_ years. Qualified Elector: (Y) \_\_\_\_\_ (N) \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Pertinent Information/References: \_\_\_\_\_

### PERSONAL REFERENCES

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are interested in serving as a volunteer or on a particular board or commission, please specify area of interest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(OVER)

SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE OR EXPERIENCE APPLICABLE TO BOARD, COMMISSION OR VOLUNTEER INTEREST:

The below questions are asked because the City Council desires to manage the appointment process to ensure the appointment of qualified individuals representing a cross-section of gender, diversity, and geographical representation of the community.

Race: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have been a volunteer or a member of a board or commission before, please indicate the approximate dates and area of service:

APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL APPOINTED BOARDS, COMMISSION AND COMMITTEES ARE KEPT ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR.

Aviation Policy Advisory Board  
Building Code Board of Adjustment and Appeals  
Parks and Recreation Policy Advisory Board  
Sugar Land 4B Corporation

Animal Control Advisory Board  
Planning and Zoning Commission  
Zoning Board of Adjustment  
Sugar Land Development Corporation

*\*Citizen Volunteer Service: Various departments are looking for volunteers to help with general office and other duties and/or projects.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Thank you for taking the time to complete this application. The information will be helpful to the members of City Council in making appointments and to the City in coordinating volunteer services.

Please return this form to:



City of Sugar Land  
Attention: City Secretary  
Post Office Box 110  
Sugar Land, Texas 77487-0110  
281.275.2730 Voice  
281.275.2316 Fax

*For Office Use Only*

( ) Appointed to \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_  
(Board/Commission/Committee/Volunteer) (Date)

# INCUMBENTS UNOPPOSED

Bios provided by candidates.



**Mayor Wallace** is serving his first term as the mayor of Sugar Land. Prior to his election, he represented District 4 as a City Councilmember. Mayor Wallace is Co-Chairman of the Homeland Security Task Force and the Urban Water Council for the United States Conference of Mayors. Additionally, he serves on U.S. Conference of Mayors committees for Urban Economic Policy; Membership; and Arts, Park, Entertainment & Sports, and he is a member of the Texas Municipal League-Resolutions Committee. He is chairman of the Texas Energy Center Task Force and is on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee for the Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council.

Mayor Wallace is the chief financial officer of Asset Plus and Asset Campus Housing and has served on the Board of Directors and held numerous leadership positions in non-profit, public and private companies.

Mayor Wallace received his BBA in Real Estate Finance from the University of North Texas. Additionally, Mayor Wallace attended Union College in Schenectady, New York, and received a scholarship to study International Real Estate, International Finance and International Law at the University of Reading, England.

Mayor Wallace has lived in Sugar Land since 1993 with his wife, Kathy and two daughters.



**Daniel Wong** has lived in Sugar Land since 1990. He is currently completing his first term as the City Councilmember for the seat of At-Large Position 2.

Presently, Daniel Wong is a board member of the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) and also an alternate member on the H-GAC Transportation Policy Council. He serves as a member of the Annexation Subcommittee and the Intergovernmental Subcommittee appointed by the City Council. He is a trustee for the Fort Bend Economic Development Council and a member of the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce.

He graduated from the University of Houston with a Bachelor of Science, a Master of Science and a doctorate degree. Dr. Wong co-founded an engineering firm in 1993 and the firm has grown to be one of the largest engineering firms in Houston. He is a registered professional engineer in the State of Texas. He was a board member for Fort Bend YMCA, Literacy Council of Fort Bend County and the Fort Bend American Heart Association. He is a member of the Fort Bend Community Church and served as a deacon for many years.

## What is the City's Charter?

A city charter is the constitution governing the municipal government. The charter defines the powers the citizens agree to give their city government and how the government is to be structured. The charter defines which officials are elected, their term lengths, duties, powers and responsibilities and establishes the lines of authority for the departments.

In 1981, Sugar Land citizens voted to adopt the City's first home-rule charter. By converting from a general-law city to a home-rule city, the citizens chose to exercise their right under the Texas Constitution to make local laws to govern their own affairs.

The charter is the City's "constitution" and cannot be amended except by approval of the voters and not more often than every two years. In the last decade, Sugar Land City Council has appointed two Charter Review Commissions for this purpose.

### In 1995, the following recommendations were adopted:

- 1) Council must adopt annual City goals and long-range plans;
- 2) Council will adopt an annual fiscal plan;
- 3) Council quorum was reduced from five to four members; and
- 4) four affirmative Council votes are required for action on any public business.

### In 1998, the following recommendations were adopted:

- 1) election of Council members by majority instead of plurality vote;
- 2) Council term limits will be applied to consecutive years of service, not consecutive terms; and
- 3) Council is required to read only an ordinance caption in lieu of the whole ordinance before adoption.

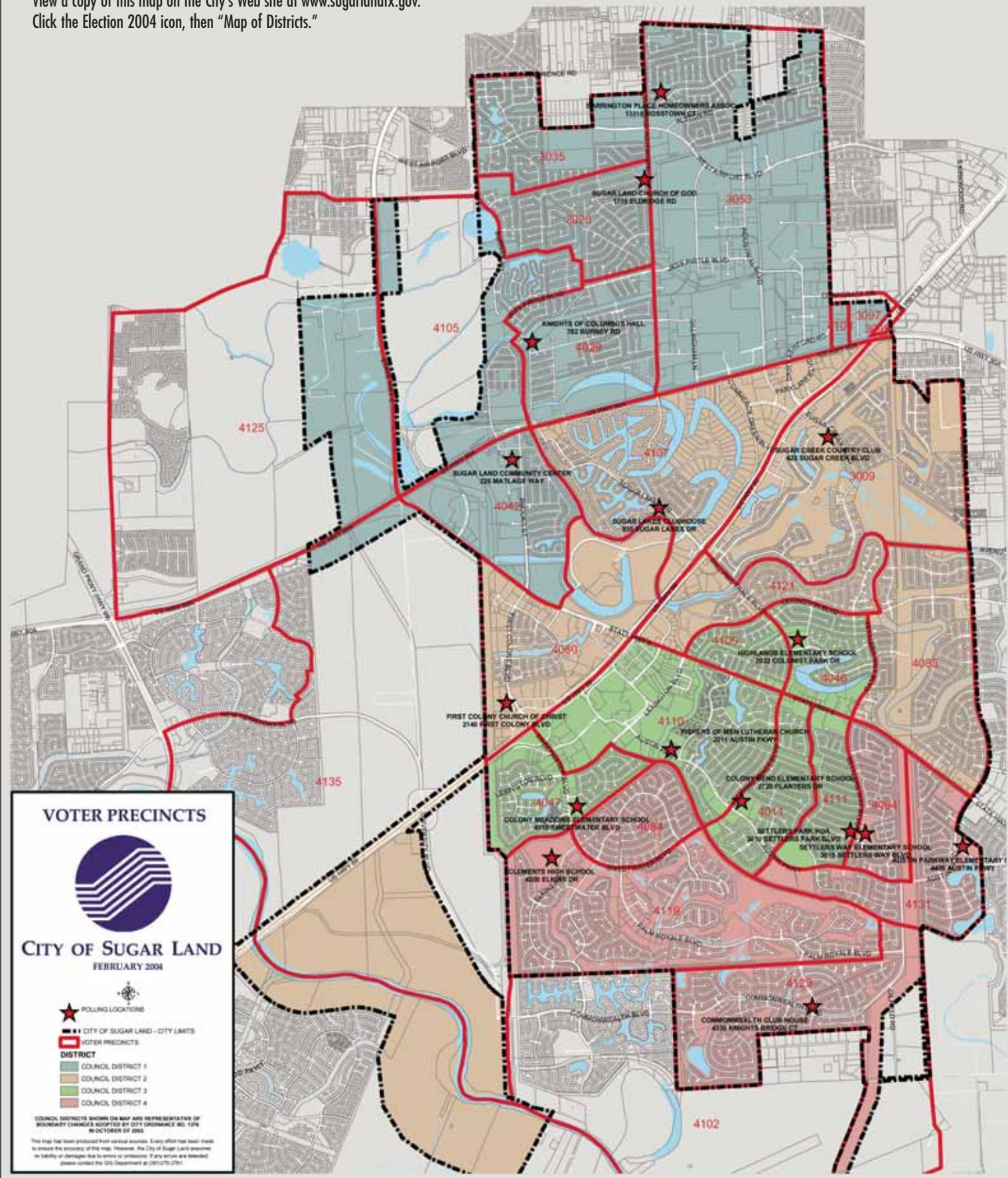
Previous Charter Review Commissions have taken the view that the charter should only include the fundamental matters of local government. For example, the number of council members on Council and the manner of election (by majority or plurality vote) are fundamental matters and should be addressed by the charter.

View a copy of the City's current charter on the City's Web site at [www.sugarlandtx.gov](http://www.sugarlandtx.gov). Click "Press Room," then "City Charter."



# CITY OF SUGAR LAND VOTER PRECINCTS

View a copy of this map on the City's Web site at [www.sugarlandtx.gov](http://www.sugarlandtx.gov).  
Click the Election 2004 icon, then "Map of Districts."





# City of Sugar Land Polling Locations

| Precinct                     | District         | Polling Location                        | Address                     |
|------------------------------|------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 3009<br>3095<br>3097         | 2                | Sugar Creek Country Club                | 420 Sugar Creek Boulevard   |
| 3020<br>3035                 | 1                | Sugar Land Church of God                | 1715 Eldridge Road          |
| 3053 (p)                     | 1                | Barrington Place Homeowners Association | 13318 Rosstown Court        |
| 4011                         | 3                | Colony Bend Elementary School           | 2720 Planters Street        |
| 4029<br>4105 (p)             | 1                | Knights of Columbus Hall                | 702 Burney Road             |
| 4042                         | 1                | Sugar Land Community Center             | 226 Mailage Way             |
| 4046<br>4109<br>4121<br>4083 | 3<br>3<br>2<br>2 | Highlands Elementary School             | 2022 Colonist Park Drive    |
| 4047<br>4084                 | 3<br>4           | Colony Meadows Elementary School        | 4510 Sweetwater Boulevard   |
| 4064                         | 4                | Settlers Way Elementary School          | 3015 Settlers Way Boulevard |
| 4080                         | 2                | First Colony Church of Christ           | 2140 First Colony Boulevard |
| 4107<br>4108                 | 2                | Sugar Lakes Clubhouse                   | 930 Sugar Lakes Drive       |
| 4110                         | 3                | Fishers of Men Lutheran Church          | 2011 Austin Parkway         |
| 4111                         | 3                | Settlers Park HOA                       | 3010 Settlers Way Boulevard |
| 4119                         | 4                | Clements High School                    | 4200 Elkins Drive           |
| 4129 (P)                     | 4                | Commonwealth Club House                 | 4330 Knights Bridge Court   |
| 4131                         | 4                | Austin Parkway Elementary School        | 4400 Austin Parkway         |

## Feds Mandate Provisional Voting

In compliance with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), state law has been amended to comply with several election-related changes, including a new provisional voting requirement. Specifically, election officials must provide provisional ballots to voters whose registration is challenged (i.e., voters whose names do not appear on the voter registration roll when they arrive at the polls).

The provisional voting measure replaces the similar challenge affidavit process.

envelope, place the ballot in the envelope, then place that envelope in a secrecy envelope and put the package in the ballot box. In Sugar Land, the provisional ballots will be provided to the election

administrator, who will try to confirm the eligibility of voters casting provisional ballots. If the eligibility can't be

confirmed, the ballot won't be counted. For example, voters who vote in the wrong precinct won't have their votes counted, but if they are listed in the wrong precinct, they will be counted. The election administrator will have three business days after the election to verify eligibility.

The affidavit envelope will have a voter registration card on it so those who cast provisional ballots will be registered to vote in time for the next election, even if their ballots aren't counted for the May 15 election.

For more information, call (281) 341-8670.

Voters casting provisional ballots during early voting or on the regular election day must have valid identification. They also must fill out an affidavit

# Sugar Land Welcomes Lisa Womack as Police Chief

Lisa Womack joined the City of Sugar Land as police chief on April 12.

"During her tenure as a deputy chief in Arlington, Texas, Womack established strong partnerships with the community through



programs such as community watch, business watch and citizens on patrol," said City Manager Allen Bogard. "Her focus on community-oriented, problem-solving policing was a strong factor in my selection of Chief Womack."

A 12-year law enforcement veteran, Womack most recently was deputy chief with the Arlington Police Department (APD). She supervised more than 120 police officers and civilians, with responsibility for patrol, K-9 and community policing functions for a diverse geographic area of 160,000 residents and one of the largest retail shopping corridors in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex.

She also served as deputy chief of the community services division, a command position responsible for training, personnel/recruiting,

community services and youth/school services.

"Sugar Land is experiencing many of the same challenges that faced Arlington during a period of rapid growth and change," said Womack.

"Sugar Land is a vibrant City with highly qualified officers in its police department. I am very impressed with the overall management of the City, and I'm looking forward to making positive contributions to an already outstanding organization."

"I plan to spend a significant amount of time in the community getting to know residents, business owners and community leaders," she said. "I will be doing a lot of listening before making decisive decisions on the future of the department. I am committed to the philosophy of community-based policing and providing the best possible service to our citizens. I will encourage the public to participate in the responsibility to make Sugar Land the safest place to live and work."

Womack joined APD in 1992 as a patrol officer before being promoted to sergeant in 1996 and lieutenant in 2000. In 1993, she was presented the Life Saving Award and in 1999 the Medal of Merit. Prior to that, Womack served for four years as an administrative assistant to the City

of Hurst city manager, where she designed and implemented a departmental performance review system assessing organizational performance levels for annual budgeting purposes.

She earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Texas Women's University and a master's degree in public administration from the University of North Texas.

Womack holds an advanced peace officer certificate and a firearms instructor license. She is a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government's Senior Management Institute for Police and the Institute for Law Enforcement Administration's School of Police Supervision. In 2004, she was appointed by Governor Rick Perry to the Crime Victim's Institute Advisory Council, a group that evaluates and recommends policies in the areas of criminal justice and juvenile justice programs.

Womack and her husband, who have two children, look forward to living in Sugar Land.

"As police chief, I will work to establish an environment of shared ownership and responsibility by establishing close ties with the community to address public safety issues and neighborhood concerns," said Womack.



City of Sugar Land  
PO Box 110  
Sugar Land, TX 77487-0110

## Free Oyster Creek Park Concerts at 5 p.m.

April 18: Bayou Roux (Zydeco)

April 25: Acoustic Show (Country)

May 2: Route 66 (Various Styles)

May 9: Lonestar Bluegrass  
(Bluegrass)

May 16: Stephen Brown (Country)

May 23: Zion (Reggae)

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